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1-9091

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
FROM : Chief, Communications Division
SUBJECT: Communications Personnel

DATE: 27 June 1951

1. For your information, attached is a copy of my memorandum to the Assistant Director for Special Operations concerning the shortage of personnel.

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2. [redacted] is cognizant of this situation and is working on the problem.

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Attachment

1-9891

TO : AD/EO

20 June 1951

FROM : Chief, Communications Division

SUBJECT: Communications Personnel

1. This is in further reference to my previous memoranda relative to the critical personnel situation facing the Communications Division. I have emphatically pointed out on numerous occasions during the past year, particularly on 13 September and 6 December, 1950, that the Communications Division could not meet its obligations unless drastic steps were taken to provide the needed personnel. I advised the Communications Board in January of this year of this situation. However, personnel in sufficient quantity have not been forthcoming up to this time.

2. I wish to advise you at this time that the Division cannot fulfill its commitments to provide communications support to the various activities of the Agency, especially to those covert OPC projects requiring immediate implementation. A review of the increase in net personnel strength of the Division during the past six months leads to no other conclusion but that the personnel gain has been insufficient to keep pace with the increasing demands. The gap is rapidly increasing daily.

25X1 3. The situation will be alleviated to only a small degree should the approximately [] personnel now in process enter on duty within the next few weeks. The individuals will need a considerable period of training and cannot be considered immediately usable upon their entrance on duty.

25X1 4. As an emergency temporary measure, it is strongly recommended that positive steps be taken at this time on a priority basis to obtain enlisted military personnel. It is intended to use such personnel in support of projects in Europe and the Far East [] The present [] sufficient to provide for these additional personnel. It is, therefore, requested that action be taken to increase the T/O and to procure [] qualified high speed radio operators and technicians from the military service to enable this Division to fulfill its obligations in support of OPC projects.

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23 June 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Personnel

"The lack of personnel in the Communications Division, particularly in training pools and overseas has reached such serious proportions that it appears doubtful whether present commitments can be met and communications activities vital to the support of the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency properly carried out. The authorized T/O's established for the support of communications activities of this Agency have not been adequately filled since my assignment here nearly two years ago, and records indicate the same situation has existed since the organization of the Agency in 1947.

As a result of the chronic personnel shortages in this Division, sound personnel rotation and training programs designed to build a strong cadre of communications officers experienced in intelligence communications have suffered considerably. Morale has been adversely affected by the uncertainty of the length of assignments due to lack of replacements; operations have been hampered and in some cases adversely affected. Many worthwhile programs and projects have been worked out only to fail of implementation or lose their effectiveness because suitable personnel were not available in sufficient numbers to prosecute and support them.

On 17 July 1950 (Tab A), I wrote the Director expressing my concern over the anticipated difficulties which might arise in the procurement of personnel and asking for the assignment of a quota of members of the Armed Forces. On 18 August 1950 (Tab B), I asked for enlisted personnel for eventual assignment in support of communications activities. On 13 September 1950 (Tab C), I wrote the Director expressing my deep concern over the slowness with which the personnel requirements of the Communications Division were being met, and pointed out my fear that operations could not be supported unless procurement and processing of personnel at all levels was greatly accelerated. Subsequent to the memorandum of 13 September 1950, frequent status reports were submitted to the Chief, SED and to the AD/SO pointing out that a serious situation continued to exist and urging that procurement and entrance on duty of personnel be expedited. On 18 September 1950 (Tab D) and again on 16 December 1950 (Tab E), I submitted suggestions for means by which procurement and training of personnel might be expedited. On 31 January 1950 (Tab F), I informed the OSO/OPC Communications Board of the serious situation existing and of the fact that I believed the Communications Division would be unable to support projected activities with the personnel presently available. During recent months the lack of net increase in Communications personnel

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has been the subject of many discussions and conferences. On 20 June 1951 (Tab G), I advised the AD/SO that the Communications Division was no longer able to meet properly its commitments with the personnel available to it and suggested that as an emergency measure military personnel be obtained on a priority basis.

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After careful consideration of the entire problem and lengthy discussions with my staff, it is in my opinion that the underlying cause of the present difficulties is lack of the assignment of a sufficiently high priority to the procurement and processing of Communications personnel. In view of the existing vacancies in the Communications Division, T/O, it does not appear to me that sufficient effort is being expended to provide the required personnel support for the Communications Division.

I recommend that consideration be given to one or more of the following proposals:

A task force be organized in the personnel office consisting of a sufficient number of procurement officers and assistants to assure the complete coverage of all schools and colleges in the United States particularly state universities and small colleges as well as technical institutes and schools of a similar type.

That general information be made available to prospective employees as to the type of work and opportunities to be expected together with a true picture of the interesting as well as difficult aspects of CIA communications as a career.

That publicity be given to the opportunities afforded Communications personnel in the Central Intelligence Agency and a series of articles be published in periodicals likely to be read by students glamorizing the work of the intelligence communicator. I think if properly handled, the mention of the Central Intelligence Agency would be of advantage.

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That contractual arrangements be made with leading radio schools providing for procurement, holding, and training of communications personnel for the Central Intelligence Agency. This proposal has been made before but has not been implemented.

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